

July 6, 1962

Mr. R. Sargent Shriver, Jr.
Peace Corps
806 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Shriver:

I was delighted to learn of the very constructive developments outlined in your letter of June 7. The recruitment of Dr. Dorfman and Dr. Koprowska into a more immediate confrontation with problems of mongolism should be regarded as an important acquisition for the study of mental retardation.

May I now revert to another outstanding question, and attempt to elicit your attention for the scholarship program that I had previously outlined? The scientific orientation and training of medical students is one of the most critical needs in a long term view of medical research. Our problems have been seriously aggravated by the current formulation of NIH policy with regard to training grants, which has become increasingly diffident in general, and especially negative with respect to the crucial problem of research training for medical students. I enclose copies of some correspondence from Dr. Stone to illustrate this point. This situation, together with many other alarming features of the recent evolution of increasingly rigid policies on the part of the NIH should not necessarily be considered a reflection on the motives or abilities of the very fine people in that organization, since, as you know, they have been under increasing legislative pressure. The stultifying impact of this new atmosphere on scientific research throughout the country is likely to be much larger than the people in the administration suspect, unless we bring it forcefully to their attention. With your own deep interest in furthering medical research I am sure you will want to be kept currently informed about the reactions of the troops.

More immediately, may I ask your favorable consideration of at least a pilot scholarship program along the lines of my earlier request? As I have previously indicated, I believe this would give a large return in eliciting the interest of medical students in mental retardation and in helping train some very gifted people for work in this area.

Cordially,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

cc: Dr. G. A. Jervis